2/3 these into their carrying baskets. They come home loaded and give enough to each one to make a fire under his hammock during the night. [232]

2/47 Cotton is indispensable to the Caribs for hammocks, for stringing ornaments, and for tying the feathers on their arrows. They also use it to fasten their arrowheads made either of green wood or of the tail of the sting ray, in place of iron. It is to obtain cotton that leads them to fish at the Saints or to catch crabs at Marie-Galante, for they make clearings in those places to grow cotton. You see very few Caribs who do not always carry a small roll of cotton in their baskets. The French ships do not willingly encumber themselves with cotton because of the fear of fire and because it does not load ship well. [280]

283 The women having taken the cotton from its pod and picked out the seeds then put a headless arrowshaft into it. Then they turn the cotton, which thins like carded wool. When it breaks off they attach an end to the arrow. A woman holds the arrow in one hand and in the other holds a spindle which is as long as an arm's length or more. The thread stop is a round object made of tortoise shell and is as wide as the hand with a length of about half a foot measured from the end of the shaft. This end is placed on the ground. The spindle shaft point is pressed against the women's thigh, and she rolls it back and forth with her extended hand up and down the length of her thigh. This is how the Carib women spin thread. [114]

485 A small calabash is cut into two parts and is painted by the women. It is used as a glass or a cup. [439] They cut halves from two calabashes in such a way that one half fits inside the other and forms a box. They pass cords through it and they use them as little chests, as bags, and as knapsacks. [128] They use a big and long calabash as a pot for a drink offered to some visitor, or when a sacrifice is offered. It rests on the longest part and is open on the other side. They draw off water from the opening in this calabash using a smaller one. [198]

231 The Caribs never feed any animals except by necessity or entertainment. If they have roosters it is to wake them up in the morning. If they keep birds it is to draw out their plumes in order to adorn themselves, and they use the other kind to teach their children to fish and hunt. If they keep dogs it is to hunt pigs and agoutis. If they have chickens they would prefer to die rather than to eat them, and

The coúlacoña is a fruit which looks like pineapple but is smaller. It furnishes hemp for the Caribs. [183]

The Carib cabbage is called táya. I have seen several kinds among the Caribs, who consider it to be a good remedy. I have not delved into the problem of learning its virtues. I know there is one kind which has red-ribbed leaves. They press the juice which they mix with urucu [body paint] and redden themselves with it, firmly believing that they make themselves pleasing to their enemies and that they have nothing to fear when they take this precaution. The other kinds of cabbages which are more common are added to their cooking instead of seasoning, and their tips are prepared like Spanish chard. The Caribs cook the roots and make a drink out of it. [453]

The Carib women take termite nests and fill their pots, which are their ovens, and add some rotten and dry wood. When the fire is set it cooks slowly. [176] The Caribs are fond of honey and they know the trees where it can be found. When they see a honey fly going to a tree they place their ear against the tree. If they hear the buzzing of honey flies they fell the tree and take the honey which they distribute to each one in his calabash. They mix it with water and drink it immediately. The honey flies have no stinger although they swarm on the Caribs and tickle them with their tiny legs so much that they can scarcely bear it. [350] Lice are an appreciated delicacy. The Carib women roll them between their teeth and savor them for a quarter of an hour. I have tried to make them ashamed of it, but whatever I said about their imagined delicacy failed to provoke the disgust which they reserve only for lice born on the heads of those from another nation. [140]

Toads are eaten at Martinique like frogs. They are good. [239]

The Caribs do not have the patience to pluck the feathers out of a bird. I have been with them to the Saints where they catch birds called tuéron. First they cut off half of the wings on a piece of wood. Then they throw the bird in the fire, turning it over several times. They reach in and put it on a grill without cleaning it, and allow it to lie enveloped by smoke, sometimes for quite a while. They eat it without a sauce. They peal off only the outer skin and remove the guts. [240] The wives of the Caribs cook freshly caught fish in fresh water, often half-cleaned without being scaled. They season it with pepper. After they have poured off the sauce they use some small sticks of wood which they have taken from the fire to remove the fish from the pot. To divide and distribute it cleanly, they wash their hands with a mouthful

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

X824

SAPIACEAE. Sapia Family.

Mellissia herbertii Rolfe, Kew Bull. 244. 1893.

Sept Ans.

Sept ans is a tree of the mountain forests of Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles.

[313] The wood of this species is said to be suitable for cabinet work, but the Carib of Dominica employs the timber chiefly for posts.

Specimen citation: 132 (T).

MALVACEAE. Mallow Family.

Gossypium spp.

Cotton. — Coton. — *ihalistopue, mâule* (m) (cf. *Tupi amandiyu-ỹ*).

Several species of cotton are grown throughout the West Indies. At least one of these is native to the Americas for Columbus found the Tainos and Caribs growing cotton on many of the West India islands: « ... cotton plants as large as peach trees... » (69).

● [248] The Caribs of Dominica cultivate two kinds of cotton which are to be found growing as arborescent shrubs near their dwellings. In some places the plants appear naturalized. The two types are known as coton noir (*G. vitifolium* Lam.) and coton blanc (*G. barbadense* L.).

283 X824 Most present day Caribs state that they can remember their grandmothers spinning cotton fiber. It was formerly spun by the following process. The cotton was picked and sun-dried for a day or so. Then it was gone over carefully and teased bit by bit into circular pads of about the same size which were then flattened between the palms of the hands. The pads were then piled one on top of the other thus forming a cylinder which was squeezed, folded, and stretched until it attained the required consistency. This cylinder was then twisted into a spiral and stretched carefully to the desired thickness. One end of the spiral was then attached to the hook at the end of a spindle[38], and the other end was

[38] This had a wooden shank about two and a half feet long, and a guard formed from a calabash or turtle shell.